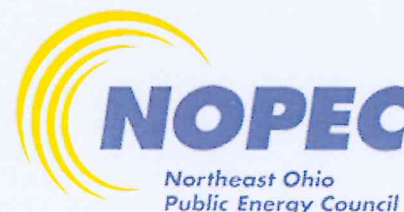


Your community is a member of NOPEC gas aggregation program. Starting January 15, your constituents will be receiving a mandatory Opt-Out mailer for Natural Gas and some may have questions. As in the past we are providing you some tools that will help you if you receive any questions from any residents and small businesses in your community. NOPEC is mandated to send out every two years the opt out for natural gas and every three years the opt out for electricity. Your residents and small businesses would have received opt out in July for electric which may create some confusion.

We are very excited with this opt out also brings a change in supplier, NextEra Energy of Ohio, who brings to you the largest buy Ohio natural gas program in the history of the State. With that brings lower prices and the ability to bring our communities and their members competitive pricing.

Look out in the near future for an invitation to a NOPEC “meet and greet” event coming soon to a community near you!

Denise Dean
Marketing Director



January 13, 2014

Joseph Migliorini
Chairman

Chuck Keiper
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Ron McVoy
Ashtabula County

Georgine Welo
Cuyahoga County

James Flaiz
Geauga County

Rob Duncan
Huron County

Daniel Troy
Lake County

David Gillock
Lorain County

Pat McNamara
Medina County

Mickey Marozzi
Portage County

Jack Haney
Trumbull County

www.nopecinfo.org
855-NOPEC-01
(855-667-3201)

Dear Natural Gas Customer,

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest governmental public retail energy aggregation in the nation. Our aggregation currently has 134 members, serving 174 communities in ten counties. We negotiate on the behalf of our members with gas and electric suppliers to find favorable rates and terms for you. We even help you learn how to save on your utility usage and buy energy saving products at a discount with our newest product, MyEnergyMyWay™.

As Chairman of NOPEC, I am pleased to tell you about our natural gas program and your options. This offer, available from our chosen supplier NextEra Energy Services Ohio, LLC, is exclusively for eligible customers in participating NOPEC communities served by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. Your account will automatically be included in the NOPEC program unless you opt-out of the aggregation by notifying us on or before February 4, 2014. Gas service is expected to begin with your March 2014 meter reading date, and will continue until your March 2016 meter reading date. You have the following two options, both of which can be canceled at any time with no penalty:

Option 1: Your price will be \$0.54404 per Ccf* beginning with the billing cycle immediately following your March 2014 meter read date. The price will stay in effect through your June 2014 meter read date, and then your price may be fixed or variable, as determined by NOPEC and NextEra Energy Services Ohio, for one or more billing cycles. If you chose Option 1, you need to take no action at all. In several weeks you will receive a letter from your utility confirming your enrollment in NOPEC's governmental aggregation program.

Option 2: You can also opt-in to a monthly variable price* option. Details can be found in the Terms and Conditions located on the back of this letter. To participate under this option you must call us at 855-NOPEC-01 (855-667-3201). Offer subject to availability.

If you do not want to participate, you must notify us by one of the following methods: a) sign, date and return the attached reply card, b) email us at nopecoptout@nexteraenergyservices.com – please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and utility account number, or c) fax us at 800-238-5676. Whichever method you choose, you must do so on or before February 4, 2014.

Same Reliable Service: Only the supplier of your natural gas will change. All other functions, delivery, repair, billing, and customer service, will continue to be provided by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. You will continue to receive only one bill.

Please review all materials, including the Terms and Conditions located on the back of this letter, and decide which option is best for you. We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Migliorini
Chairman, NOPEC Board of Directors

You are receiving this notice today, because you have the right to opt-out of the NOPEC's Natural Gas Aggregation Program every two years without penalty.

*All prices are exclusive of sales and other applicable taxes and utility charges.

NOPEC Contact Information

Customer Service: 855-NOPEC-01 (855-667-3201)

Available 24 hours a day; 7 days a week

P.O. Box 7016, De Pere, WI 54115-7016

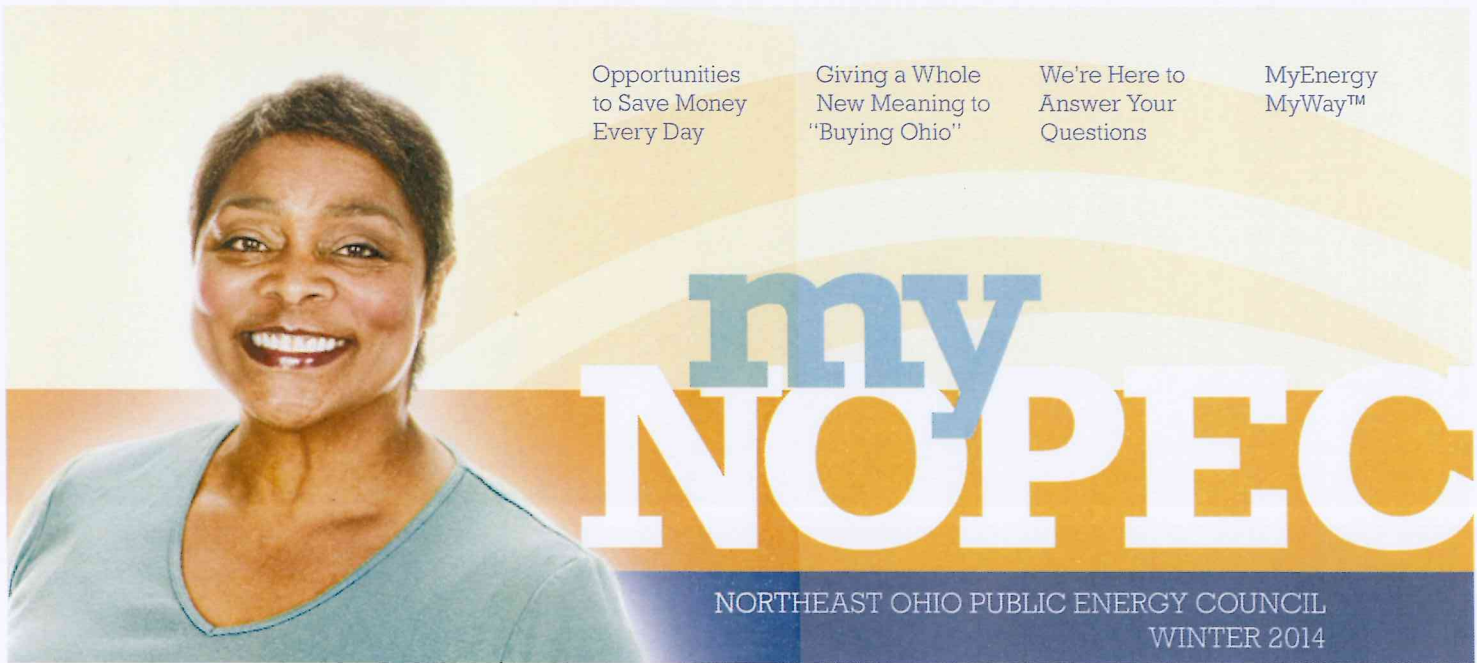
All eligible customers in member communities are automatically included in the program unless you opt-out on or before February 4, 2014.

Opportunities
to Save Money
Every Day

Giving a Whole
New Meaning to
"Buying Ohio"

We're Here to
Answer Your
Questions

MyEnergy
MyWay™



WE'RE NOPEC, GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE EVERYDAY!

Your community has chosen to join NOPEC as your provider based on a long and successful partnership of offering energy cost savings that have been passed along to our customers. By law, however, every two years you have the right to choose your energy provider with no penalty. In the coming month you will be receiving a letter in the mail from NOPEC regarding this choice.

Choosing to stay with NOPEC is easy! Do nothing, your enrollment is automatic.

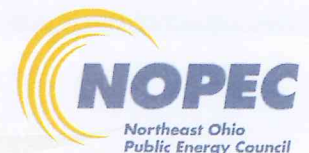


nopecinfo.org

We're the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), a non-profit group of communities whose mission is to keep our gas and electric bills low. We are the largest public energy aggregate in the nation with more than 130 members serving over 170 communities in 10 counties across Northeast Ohio. And, we use our immense buying power to negotiate better rates, better representation and better choices for residents and small businesses, like you.

Since our inception in 2000, we have saved our member residents and businesses more than \$185 million.

In today's volatile, deregulated energy marketplace, we know that long-term rate stability is important to you. With NOPEC on your side, you can be sure that your energy costs will remain consistent, predictable and affordable.



WE ARE GIVING A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO BUYING OHIO.

In what the Plain Dealer called "the largest buy local" campaign ever, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) signed an agreement with a new supplier that emphasizes buying Ohio gas over interstate gas.



"NOPEC is pleased to help Northeast Ohio residents and businesses cut their heating bills for years to come," said Joe Migliorini, Chairman of NOPEC's Board of Directors. "We've all heard and read about Ohio's extensive shale gas deposits, but this agreement allows Northeast Ohioans to capitalize on this great local resource. NOPEC expects to purchase a large amount of Ohio natural gas at a significant savings which will be contractually passed along to our customers."

The six year pact between NOPEC and our new wholesale supplier NextEra Energy Services, Ohio LLC ("NESO") could mean an estimated savings of 50 to 60 cents per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) due to lower costs compared to today's delivered gas prices. By negotiating beyond normal

retail boundaries, NOPEC may be able to bring even more savings to the table as well. The new agreement breaks traditional pricing components (commonly known as the "adder") into individually identified and negotiated price factors. This technique could realize as much as \$0.50 in additional savings to NOPEC customers bringing total possible savings of as much as \$1 per Mcf below current market trends. The new agreement supports economic growth in Northeast Ohio. "NOPEC is very excited to be able to look at the resources available in our region in a new way, enabling us to put together a program that will truly benefit our customers and communities, while

at the same time supporting jobs and economic growth within our state," according to NOPEC executive director Chuck Keiper. "NOPEC has been working on changing this paradigm for our customers for many months. The staff and the board of directors have very diligently and thoughtfully examined what is happening in the market in order to construct what we believe to be a true value-add and real savings opportunity for the people we serve," he added.

WE'RE HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

What is NOPEC?

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council is a non-profit energy aggregation representing about 550,000 electric residential and small business customers and 250,000 natural gas residential and small business customers in 174 communities in 10 Northeast Ohio counties. NOPEC was founded in 2000. We use bulk-buying techniques to get the least expensive power we can and then supply that power in the form of electricity and natural gas – at reduced rates – to our customers. We estimate that since we were founded, we have saved our customers in Northeast Ohio over \$185 million. We are also increasingly involved in encouraging and implementing energy conservation that saves our customers additional money.

What are these opt out letters that NOPEC is sending out – a lot of people are confused by them.

We make it as simple as we can, but energy and utilities can sometimes be rather complex. While we believe that NOPEC is the right choice to help you save money every day, we are required – every two years – to give our members the opportunity to "opt out" of NOPEC. In other words, every two years you have a chance to choose another natural gas provider or return to the Standard Choice offering with COH or DOE. If you would like to continue saving money with NOPEC, nothing is required of you – you don't have to fill out anything or return anything, easy right?

Why do you need to send these out every two years?

It's the law. We're required to do it.

If someone opted out two years ago, do they have to opt out again?

By law, if the customer opted out two years ago and did not choose an alternative supplier (remains with Standard Choice Offer or SCO) they will need to opt out again.

Some people complain about having to pay for a stamp for the envelope.

We believe our customers will continue to enjoy the savings NOPEC provides by choosing not to opt-out

I read the opt out letter, and I can see where it might confuse some people. Do you think this confuses people?

Since the utility industry is government regulated, some language can be very complex to explain. The bottom line is that NOPEC works hard behind the scenes on the issues involved in the gas and electric industries in order to bring back lower rates for you and our approximately 550,000 customers in Northeast Ohio. We understand the utility industry thoroughly and have the knowledge and voice to pursue lower rates for our region, which in turn helps make Northeast Ohio a more affordable place to live and work.

Is there someone I can call if I still have questions?

Yes. You can call 1.855.NOPEC01 (667.3201). We also encourage you to visit us at nopecinfo.org.



NOPEC recently partnered with NextEra Energy Services Ohio, LLC to use Ohio shale gas to save NOPEC customers nearly \$150 million.

NextEra Energy Services Ohio, LLC is proud to be the natural gas supplier of choice for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). NextEra Energy Services Ohio and its affiliates, provide affordable electricity and natural gas products to residential and commercial customers in competitive markets across North America. They are licensed to serve residential and commercial customers in 14 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

NextEra Energy Services is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, one of the largest wholesale generators of electric power in the U.S., and the largest generator of renewable energy from wind and sun in North America. Their parent company, NextEra Energy, Inc., one of the nation's leading clean energy providers, is a Fortune 200 company with 2012 revenues of more than \$15.3 billion and more than 42,000 megawatts of generating capacity. NextEra Energy, Inc. employs nearly 15,000 people in North America.



WE'RE YOUR LINK TO MyEnergyMyWay™

Joining **MyEnergyMyWay™** lets you see how other people, like you, are saving money. This online community gives you access to a wide variety of resources that will help you reduce your gas and electric usage, and ultimately save you money.

As a member you will find expert advice on energy conservation. You will be able to purchase energy saving products through our on-line store at a discounted rate and you can compete with your neighbors for valuable prizes.

Go to nopecinfo.org today, click on MyEnergyMyWay and start saving today!

